

engineering firm located in Houston, Texas. Mr. Simpson was an employee of Astec Development Company. Astec Development Company is a company from the United Kingdom located in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Each of the inventors is under a legal obligation to assign the subject inventions to Weatherford/Lamb, Inc.

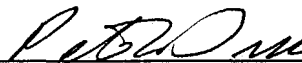
Mr. Michael Deaton is no longer under the employ of Tejas Research & Engineering. Despite efforts of counsel for Assignee, Weatherford/Lamb, Inc., Mr. Deaton has not returned the signed Oath or Declaration required under 37 CFR §§ 1.41(a) and 1.63. Accordingly, the present Petition is submitted.

In further support of the present Petition, a Joint Declaration is submitted by Peter L. Brewer and Thomas G. Hill, Jr. The signed Declaration is filed herewith in accordance with Section 409.03(d) of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedures*.

Weatherford/Lamb, Inc. respectfully requests that the above-entitled patent application be filed and examined without the submission of a signed Oath or Declaration from Thomas Michael Deaton.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$130.00, and any other fees associated with this Petition to counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/TEJ/0004/WBP. To facilitate that charge, a duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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